

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 00854 141635Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-13
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 AID-05
/071 W

-----014966 141643Z /72

O R 141415Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8538
INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0854

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, SREF, SHUM, WZ
SUBJECT: SWAZILAND ANTI-PAC ACTIONS

REF: MOOSE-NORLAND TELECON APRIL 13,

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THIS IS PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS PROMISED REF
TELECON. GOS JUSTIFIES ARRESTS/DETENTIONS OF SOME 50 PAN AFRICAN
CONGRESS (PAC) ACTIVITITS AS A "NATIONAL SECURITY" MATTER WHICH
IT BELIEVES NECESSARY TO AVOID POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT
(SAG) RETALIATION AND MOZAMBICAN DISPLEASURE. GOS NORMALLY
OPERATES IN SECRECY AND HAS NOT PROVIDED ACCURATE INFO ON THIS
CASE THUS FAR, EVEN TO UNHCR REP. HOWEVER, GOS WOULD HAVE
DIFFICULTY IN TRYING TO BYPASS UNHCR AND DEPORT THOSE ARRESTED.
NO DEPORTATIONS WOULD BE MADE TO SOUTH AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. FACTS. THE GOS HAS ARRESTED SOME 50 MEMBERS OF PAC AND IS
HOLDING THEM UNDER SWAZILAND'S DETENTION LAW, I.E. 60 DAYS
RENEWABLE, WITHOUT EXPLANATION OR TRIAL. IN PICKING UP PAC
ACTIVITIES GOS HAS ALSO DETAINED PAC SYMPATHIZERS AMONG SOUTH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MASERU 00854 141635Z

AFRICAN STUDENT REFUGEES IN SWAZILAND. AMERICAN MISSIONARIES
OPERATING UNHCR-FINANCED CENTER, HAVE HAD ECHOES OF GOS ACTIONS.
AMCITS REACTION IS TO ACCUSE GOS OF PRO-SAG COOPERATION,
VIOLATION OF REFUGEES' HUMAN RIGHTS, AND BLATANT USE OF ANTI-
PAC CAMPAIGN TO SILENCE ANY ACTUAL OR POTENTIAL CRITICS OF GOS
REGIME. REFUGEE OPINION, DOMINATED BY SOUTH AFRICAN RADICALS,
HAS BEEN CRITICAL OF GOS FOR ITS COOPERATION WITH SAG ON SECURITY

AND POLICE MATTERS AND STIFLING ATMOSPHERE OF GOS REGIME.

3. MOTIVATIONS. GOS ACTIONS THEREFORE, STEM PRINCIPALLY FROM ITS DISTRUST AND DISLIKE OF REVOLUTIONARIES, A POINT WHICH GOS AND SAG HAVE IN COMMON AND WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR THE WIDELY-ACKNOWLEDGED POLICE/SECURITY COOPERATION. PAC ACTIVITY IS NOT ONLY ANATHEMA TO GOS FOR ITS REVOLUTIONARY ASPECTS; IT IS (CORRECTLY) VIEWED AS GROUNDS FOR SAG RETALIATION AGAINST SWAZILAND. (RUMORS OF SOUTH AFRICAN TANKS APPEARING ON THE SWAZI SOUTHERN BORDER STRONGLY REINFORCE GOS BELIEF THAT SAG WOULD NOT HESITATE TO UNDERTAKE MILITARY ACTION AGAINST PAC ACTIVITY IN SWAZILAND IF IT BELIEVES GOS HAS ALLOWED IT TO GET OUT OF HAND). GOS HAS ADDITIONAL INCENTIVE TO DEAL STRONGLY WITH PAC SINCE PRESIDENT MACHEL IS KNOWN TO OPPOSE THEM, A REFLECTION OF PAC-ANC RIVALRY AND MACHEL'S STRONG PRO-ANC FEELINGS. IN SUMMARY, GOS COLLABORATES WILLINGLY IN ANTI-PAC MEASURES ON GROUNDS OF NATIONAL SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. BY SO DOING IT APPEASES BOTH ITS NEIGHBORS, SAG AND GPRM.

4. ON BASIS OF WHAT WE KNOW THUS FAR (AND WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING FULL STORY) IT IS DIFFICULT TO INVOLVE OURSELVES EXCEPT ON BROAD GROUNDS OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR ALL DETAINEES. FOR THE PAST FOUR MONTHS, EMBASSY MBABANE HAS TAKEN STEPS TO CALL ATTENTION TO OUR CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, SPECIFICALLY REFERRING TO DETAINEES, AND LINK OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND AID LEVELS. THERE IS SOLID EVIDENCE THIS POLICY CONTRIBUTED TO RECENT RELEASE OF PERSONS DETAINED LAST YEAR. GOS STUBBORNLY DEFENDS ITS ORIGINAL ACTIONS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MASERU 00854 141635Z

AND REJECTS OUR SUGGESTIONS DETENTION ACT WAS ABUSED AS "UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE" IN SWAZI INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

5. CONCLUSION. MY TENTATIVE CONCLUSION (AND I AM ENROUTE TO MBABANE TO LOOK FURTHER INTO THE SITUATION) IS THAT WE SHOULD CONTINUE OUR COURSE OF ACTION, EXPRESSING CONCERN IN APPROPRIATE WAYS AND TAKING STEPS (ESPECIALLY WHEN AID LEVELS AND PROGRAMS ARE UNDER DISCUSSION) TO MAKE CLEAR OUR BELIEF THAT GOS USE OF DETENTION LAW, IN VIRTUALLY THE SAME WAY AS IN SOUTH AFRICA, WEAKENS MORAL POSITION OF NON-SAG WORLD. HOWEVER, THERE ARE LIMITS TO WHAT WE CAN AND SHOULD DO. FURTHER REACTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BY SEPTTEL FROM MBABANE.
STOKES

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTION, SECURITY CONTROLS, ARRESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MASERU00854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780161-0143
Format: TEL
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780457/aaaabwmz.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 374ea1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2969572
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SWAZILAND ANTI-PAC ACTIONS
TAGS: PINT, SREF, SHUM, WZ, PAC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/374ea1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014